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HOUSE RESOLUTION 275  
By Turner (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mrs. Dora Purdy on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and have given unreservedly of themselves to develop the state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, Dora Purdy is one such extraordinary educator who has served with probity for 33 years within the Memphis City School System; her career is a testimony of tremendous success and numerous contributions to the children of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, committed to academic excellence, Mrs. Purdy earned her master's degree and over 45 hours of study in Administration and Supervision at the University of Memphis after she received her bachelor's degree from LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, this gifted educator has shared her talents at several of the schools in Memphis; she began her exemplary career as a substitute teacher before landing her first permanent teaching position in 1970 at Cromwell Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dora Purdy continued teaching at Sea Isle Elementary and at the Creative Learning in a Unique Environment (CLUE) in special education until 1980. Her remarkable

tenure in education also included a stint at Pacific Middle School in Okinawa, Japan for the Department of Defense from 1973-1975; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Purdy began her administrative career in education in 1980 as the assistant principal at Richland Elementary School; she subsequently became an assistant principal at Sherwood Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dora Purdy was named an assistant principal at the Double Tree Montessori School in 1985, after rendering astute service as an employment specialist in the Division of Personnel Services and the training coordinator in the Division of Employee Services; and

WHEREAS, during her estimable tenure at Double Tree, Mrs. Purdy restructured the Co/NECT program, and the school was selected among approximately 70 applicants to participate in the New American Schools Development Corporation (NASDC); and

WHEREAS, Dora later served as principal at the Double Tree Montessori School after she was the principal of Dunbar Elementary School from 1987-1991, maintaining 98% and 96% student attendance rates at the two schools, respectively; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Dora Purdy capably filled the co-director position at the Professional Assessment, Development and Enhancement Center (PADEC); and

WHEREAS, throughout her stellar career, Dora Purdy has strived to ensure the effective implementation of policies and laws related to the operation of public schools; conducted city-wide and school-based development workshops; recruited, screened, interviewed, and assigned applicants for positions as teachers and as classified employees; coordinated Parent Involvement and Staff Development activities; and directed the delivery of services related to the education of students, to the teaching-learning environment, and to the involvement of the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Purdy is an active and important part of the community and her profession, participating in such civic organizations, as the Strategic Planning Committee, the Mission and Vision Task Force, the NASSP Workshop for "Let's Talk" PADEC, the committee

for the Comprehensive Education Reform Act (CERA), the visiting committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the state committee for Career Ladder Administrators, in addition to lending her support as a state certified trainer for the Tennessee Instruction Model (TIM), a presenter at the Memphis City Schools video production of "The Report Card," and as a representative of the Memphis City Schools to the State Department on School Climate; and

WHEREAS, Dora Purdy also contributes her time and numerous talents to the International Reading Association, the Memphis Public School Principals Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Purdy's professional activities are quite notable and reflect her capacity to serve and lead effectively; she has served with acumen as the chairperson for the Reduction in Force Committee of the Memphis City Schools Principals Association, a consultant of Planned Parenthood, a yearbook staff advisor, a member of the Central and South Area Principals' Advisory Council, the City-Wide Staff Development Committee, a presenter of the Head Start staff development, an assessor for the PADEC-NASSP for the Principalship, and as a leader of a variety of local school committees; and

WHEREAS, her superlative teaching skills have been recognized by her receipt of numerous awards and accolades, including being nominated for the MBA Principal of the Year, being inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, achieving Level III status as a Career Ladder Administrator, and receiving certification as supervisor/principal in advanced elementary education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Purdy exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Dora Purdy has rendered impeccable service as the 1991 president of the Compatible Bridge Club of the NAACP and as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and

WHEREAS, loving the Lord and endeavoring to lead an exemplary Christian life, Mrs. Purdy is a devout member of the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, where she is actively involved in the Banner Ministry and the Choir; and

WHEREAS, Dora Purdy is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish her and is tremendously admired by students and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and a friend, Mrs. Dora Purdy is the perfect example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Mrs. Dora Purdy our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.